

From: USModernist Newsletter <george@usmodernist.org>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 10:31 AM
To: george@usmodernist.org
Subject: Stop the Madness, Rancho Mirage / Danger in Melbourne / Containers Gone Wild / Ronnette Riley



USMODERNIST

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Monday, May 4, 2020

Note: NCModernist.org is going in for maintenance and will not be available for up to two weeks. If you need information urgently from that site, reply to rebekah@usmodernist.org.



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NEWS



Stop the madness, Rancho Mirage! This pleasant city near Palm Springs has not updated its historic resources survey since 2002. Woefully incomplete and dated, citizens have been told that any kind of update is out of the question. However, houses can not be protected without being on the list, and if the list is never updated well, you results like the **Hyatt von Dehn**

Residence being torn down recently, designed by **Howard Lapham** at 40995 Thunderbird Road. The house was featured on the cover of Architectural Digest in 1961 and again several years later when legendary interior designer **Arthur Elrod** did a redesign. The foyer doubled as a dining room with a unique dining table that could disappear into the floor via an elevator mechanism, still on its elevator mechanism in the home's basement when the house was visited last year. The property lay empty, on the market, for three years until it was purchased late last year by new owners who told people they planned to restore the house to Lapham's original design. Then, like what happened with the [Richard Neutra's](#) Maslon house years ago, the house was suddenly. More like these will be destroyed unless the survey is updated. You can add your support for a new survey by [writing to the City Council members](#).



Danger in Australia! Two Modernist buildings are under threat in the Beaumaris area of Melbourne. The 1961 Abrahams House, 372 Beach Road, architects: RS Demaine, Russell, Trundle, Armstrong & Orton. Plus the Holderness House, 17 Nautilus Street, architect **Charles Bricknell**. Want to help save these? Contact Beaumaris Modern, [Fiona Austin](#).



Use of containers [gone wild!](#)

Bjarke Ingels [and Westworld](#).

DOCOMOMO has a new [virtual exhibition](#).

ICONICHOUSES.ORG

IconicHouses.org has a new feature, [Icons at Risk](#).

A [virtual tour](#) of some NYC skyscrapers.



Truly, the [Modernist deal of the year](#) for \$395K! For seven times that, a [Wright house](#).

A new book by Alex Beam on the [Farnsworth house](#).

From Carol Willis at the Skyscraper Museum, a [2013 lecture by Phyllis Lambert](#) on the Seagram Building.



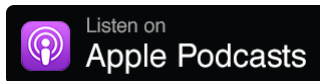
A Modernist Lego house, by **Michael Blevins**.

[Netflix](#) has made all eight episodes of its documentary series Abstract: The Art of Design, which features set designer [Es Devlin](#), architect [Bjarke Ingels](#) and interior designer [Ilse Crawford](#), available to watch for free during [virus](#) lockdown.

Thanks to the four authors **Catherine Bishir, Charlotte Brown, Carl Lounsbury, and Ernest Wood III**, their classic 1990 book Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice Of Building, is now [available free online](#).



New: **#142**/Today on USModernist Radio it's a full slate of great guests: art collector, model collector, race car driver, softball player, and architect **Ronnette Riley**, project lead for the Lipstick Building in New York designed by **Philip Johnson**. Later on, **Virginia Faust** talks about the venerable Lustron, the house of the future that didn't make it, plus special musical guest **Leonardo** with the world's only Lustron song, and a new feature - architect **Frank Harmon** reading from his new book of sketches and essays, Native Places. USModernist Radio is sponsored by Modernist realtor [Angela Roehl](#) and [Nichiha.com](#). [See past shows](#).



New: USModernist Radio is [now available on Pandora](#)! New to podcasts? You can also listen to USModernist Radio [through any computer](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3-6: Docomomo National Symposium, Chicago - postponed to May 26-29, 2021.

June 13: Glass House Summer Party, New Canaan, CT: still on schedule but likely will be postponed.

October 23-24: New Canaan Modern Tour, New Canaan, CT, still on schedule.

October: The World Expo 2020 in Dubai UAE will be postponed one year to October 2021.



There are so many ways you can be part of USModernist!

1. Connect us to collectors/libraries of architecture magazines in their attic, basement, or storage unit. USModernist is collecting and scanning almost 3 million pages and making them available to the public. We [need certain ones](#) and we'll pay for shipping.
2. Have you got an iconic mid-century chair, table, or clock (Eames, Nelson, Barcelona, Bertioia, etc.)? Donate it and get a great tax deduction!
3. Donate a collection of **Sunset Magazine**, a great chronicle of Western architecture.
4. **Want to research Modernist houses from home?** USModernist's crowd-research project needs volunteers to scout the internet, as we more fully document 8,000 iconic Modernist houses across America. It's incredibly fun to put together clues to find America's rich legacy of Modernist design. Email carie@usmodernist.org.
5. Explore our [Masters Gallery](#), featuring nearly every iconic house in America by the great masters of 20th century Modernism. Warning: highly addictive!



6. Twenty-five percent of support for the documentation, preservation, and promotion of Modernist residential architecture comes from our members called the [Mod Squad!](#) Mod Squad members get first priority for tickets for tours and special events, plus discounts for many of those tours and events. [Details.](#)

Contact **George Smart** at george@usmodernist.org or **Rebekah Laney** at rebekah@usmodernist.org.

Hat tips to **Daniel Perrin**, **Catherine Cramer**, and **Virginia Faust**.

TOURS, TALKS, and EVENTS



Oct 15-18: Modernism Week Fall Preview features a variety of new and favorite events from the annual February festival, including architectural walking tours, festive cocktail parties, home tours, stimulating lectures, the famous Premier Double Decker Architectural Bus Tours, tours of Sunnylands, and more. Returning this year is the popular Palm Springs Modernism Show & Sale – Fall Edition Preview Reception, an exclusive sneak peek at the Modernism Show & Sale before it opens to the public. Attendees will be the first to shop from the 40 world-

class exhibitors. [Tickets available](#) beginning at noon PT on Sunday, August 1.



November 6-8: The SAF presents SarasotaMOD Weekend 2020 honoring [Carl Abbott](#).



NCMODERNIST

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SALE

Vacancy, not development, is the enemy of mid-century Modernist houses. Preserve and protect the architecture you love by buying or renting before the bulldozers come a few years from now. Visit our exclusive statewide list [here](#).

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